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CIA

It's time to let the boys do what they do best

So-called "bright people" abound in the U.S. government and in much of the media. These bright folks are always quick to make the world aware that a problem exists in this country and are vehemently vocal about demanding a change, but they never have even a hint of a suggestion on how to bring about the change they demand.

A frequent target of these noisemakers is the CIA. This hard-working organization has received a lot of unwarranted black eyes from several corners. No one denies the importance of the CIA, but many think it should be run differently.

What we are discussing here is a mission-clogging "catch 22." The CIA has a big job to do. It's the kind of work few want to talk about openly but everyone wants completed.

Among many other things, the CIA must keep tabs on the hostile intelligence agencies of all those countries whose interests are inimical to those of the United States.

They must initiate and perpetuate operations directed at obtaining information on what the bad guys are up to and protecting the interests of this country and its allies. They must do all this in a degree of security so tight that even those within the "company" do not know what other personnel in the organization are working on.

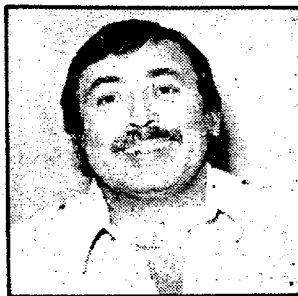
Because the word "covert" has become a dirty word, the CIA must do all that is asked of it and all the while, throughout each operation, maintain a "good-guy" image.

All this garbage started in the sorrowful 60s when heat was applied to all governmental investigative agencies. Mission completion was severely hampered and almost stopped completely.

Some of that pressure has been slowly but surely lessening, but the old catch 22 still exists. A CIA case officer today must sound something like this while briefing his people:

"Men, the enemy is supplying arms to rebels in the country of Glocamoli. In return, when the rebels take control of the government, they must install a communist regime and take orders from the Soviets, who plan to use the country as a foothold for communism in North America.

"Our mission is to find out who heads the rebels, how they will receive their arms and when they plan this uprising. Then we must see to it that no blood is shed, that they do not succeed in their mission and that the country continues on the road to democracy.



Joe Gonzalez

Daily News Columnist

"There have, of course, been some restrictions put on our mission to ensure the our covert operations are as overt as possible. We will not be allowed to send any agents into Glocamoli, tap any phone lines, bribe any informants, hurt anybody, hide behind any bushes or spend any money. I know this won't be easy, but if we did it any other way we would be criticized from all sides.

"One more thing. Since it is every American's right to know what his country is doing, we must inform the citizens about what it is we are doing and hope that the other side doesn't hear about it. Any questions?"

Certainly this is an exaggeration, but not much of one. Most readers would not believe the restrictions placed upon intelligence agencies and how their work is hampered. Still, there are those who say the CIA needs watchdogging. Well, no organization of government should be allowed to run wild and go completely unchecked, but it is being overdone and handcuffing a valuable organization.

In the words of the famous philosopher Hank Williams Jr., "You better let them boys alone and let 'em sing their songs."

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